

sides the exercise boys get while at work. And there must be recreation for the mind as well as for the body.

Boys don't set out deliberately to become what we call criminals. Their associations, how and where they play, what they do evenings, what sort of fun they have—all these have their influence in determining what kind of a man a boy is going to grow up to be.

There must be playgrounds—legal playgrounds, if you please—playgrounds where boys have rights, just as men have rights on their golf links—for boys who have left school to go to work—boys of from 13 or 14 to 16 or 17 years of age.

In every neighborhood there is a boys' gang, or several gangs. They start out innocently enough—there is generally a leader, one of the boys with a bent for leadership. And if they are chased by the cops, complained of by property owners, taken to police stations and otherwise hounded and driven about, they are apt to learn contempt for law and for order.

Many of them live in homes where the air is bad, the food meager and not the best. They can't be expected to stay in stuffy, poorly-ventilated houses evenings. Nature urges them into the air—which is bad enough in the crowded cities at best. And when they get outdoors they have no place to go except "around the corner." They have nothing to do but get into some sort of devilment that will give them mental and physical stimulation.

By far the great majority of boys will play fair with the cops, the law and the property owners if they get fair play in return. Boys will be half-way decent toward men and women who are half-way decent in their treatment of the boys.

But many fathers and mothers, older brothers and sisters, treat boys of the age to which I refer as pests, always in somebody's way, forever bothering their elders. And most of

us are so selfish and so intent upon our own work and play that we don't want to be bothered by the boys.

If we take an interest in boys before they get to the girl age the girls will generally straighten out their manners when the boys come honeying around; but boys need the attention of men when they haven't reached the girl stage and want to associate only with men or with other boys.

I think boys who have to go to work early in life resent the fact that they can't have time for fun and play like other boys who don't have to work. The rich man's son is envied, and idling boys who are "having a good time" are envied.

And these boys I am writing about are the ones we neglect—and we neglect them at a time when they most need our attention. Too often fathers begin neglecting them at this age, and then keep on neglecting them until their health is ruined by social disease—a disease that is doing far greater harm to society than tuberculosis or cancer.

We can't have too many ball-grounds or places for athletic sports. Boys look upon baseball stars, prize-fighters and other athletes as heroes. To them Ty Cobb is a bigger man than President Wilson or Teddy Roosevelt. And they can learn from their athletic heroes that they must be careful of their habits; that they must get restful sleep and be careful what they put in their stomachs if they want to have a good batting eye.

They will learn temperance in eating and drinking much quicker by knowing the influence of intemperance on their bodies than they will learn it through tracts, sermons and editorials.

We should teach boys how to play, and we can't teach them how to play unless they have a place to play when they know how.

When we teach boys how to play we teach them to understand the rules of the game and to live up to